

Telecommunications Orders - Issued 1997

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION REGARDING THE STATE'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE)	ORDER OPENING DOCKET
)	
)	TC97-120

The 1997 South Dakota Legislature passed SDCL 49-31-60 through 49-31-68 which outline the legislative intent regarding the state's telecommunications infrastructure. These statutes are effective July 1, 1997. According to SDCL 49-31-60, "[i]t is the intent of the Legislature that South Dakota have a telecommunications infrastructure that meets the advanced communication needs of the state's individual citizens and its communities of interest, including our schools, medical facilities, businesses and all levels of government." The statutes further describe specific network requirements and deployment goals.

On June 24, 1997, a regularly scheduled meeting, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) considered whether to open a docket to investigate the current status of South Dakota's telecommunications infrastructure and the telecommunications companies' plans to comply with the statutes. After hearing the comments of the South Dakota Independent Telephone Coalition, U S WEST Communications, Inc., the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications, and MCI Telecommunications Corporation, the Commission unanimously voted to open an investigative docket. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It is therefore

ORDERED that a docket shall be opened to investigate the current status of South Dakota's telecommunications infrastructure and the telecommunications companies' plans to comply with the statutes.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of July, 1997.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: _____

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Date:_____

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

LASKA SCHOENFELDER,
Commissioner

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